

Alternative Pathways to Child Abuse Prevention Act

One Pager

Research shows that [only 12.5%](#) of the cases investigated by the child protective system for abuse or neglect are found to be substantiated. Cases found unsubstantiated, however, were often identified as requiring resources or supports. When families and children are wrongfully referred to the child protective services (CPS), rather than being provided with alternative pathways to support family well-being to promote positive child outcomes, the future of thousands of children in the United States is threatened. Furthermore, the unnecessary CPS investigation may then be a source of trauma for children and caregivers alike. When families are referred to CPS due to circumstances such as poverty, scarce resources are wrongfully invested into low-risk children rather than making a connection to community-based supports to build protective factors.

Children experience negative implications when their families don't have the resources and supports necessary to help care for them. As a result, these children are more likely to have poor outcomes in the long term. Leveraging community-based supports family well-being, and ensures that children can safely remain with their families.

The *Alternative Pathways to Child Abuse Prevention Act* allows for child protective services (CPS) to focus on children most at risk and encourages connecting low-risk families to community-based supports to safely preserve children with their families.

Specifically, the legislation:

- Requires States to develop and implement alternative pathways that connect families experiencing difficulty meeting basic needs or risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect to community-based systems and programs that support families as an alternative to the child protection system;
- Encourages Tribes to adopt assessments and intervention procedures aimed at enhancing the safety of both children and victims of domestic violence;
- Improves the data collection information on effective prevention programs, national incidence of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect including areas such as the number of unsubstantiated and substantiated cases; and
- Authorizes CAPTA funding for FY 2024 through FY 2029 for, including \$500 million in Title I funding for FY 2024 and \$1 billion in Title II funding for FY2024, with “sums as may be necessary,” for both Title I and Title II for each of fiscal years FY 2025 through FY 2029.

Endorsing Organizations: American Psychological Association, National Child Abuse Coalition, Social Current, National Family Support Network, Children's Trust Fund Alliance, Child Welfare League of America, Futures Without Violence, Prevent Child Abuse America, National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives, and Zero to Three.

To cosponsor this legislation or to request other materials, please email Alanna Purdy Montesinos, Alanna_PurdyMontesinos@lujan.senate.gov.